

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continuation Application of: )  
T. S. Hughbanks et al ) Group Art Unit: (unknown)  
Serial No.: (unknown) ) Examiner: (unknown)  
Filed: (herewith) ) Atty Docket No.: SJO919940137US5  
Title: TiC MR-HEAD MAGNETIC SHIELD )  
DUMMY SHIELD SPARK GAP )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**In the Title**

Please permit the title to be changed from "TiC MR-HEAD MAGNETIC SHIELD DUMMY SHIELD SPARK GAP" to --METHOD OF MAKING A TiC MR-HEAD MAGNETIC SHIELD DUMMY SHIELD SPARK GAP-- .

**In the Specification:**

Page 1, line 1, change the title from "TiC MR-HEAD MAGNETIC SHIELD DUMMY SHIELD SPARK GAP" to --METHOD OF MAKING A TiC MR-HEAD MAGNETIC SHIELD DUMMY SHIELD SPARK GAP-- .

Page 1, between lines 2 and 3, insert

**--REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/433,900 filed November 4, 1999 which is a divisional application of application Serial No. 08/959,406 filed October 28, 1997 which is a divisional application of application Serial No. 08/480,069 filed June 7, 1995.

Page 10, line 16, change "Figure 9" to --Figures 9A and 9B-- .

Page 14, line 11, change "a HEDFI" to --one or more HEDFI-- .

Page 17, lines 3-4, change "142, 144, 146, and 148," to --140, 142, 144, and 146,-- .

Page 23, line 9, change "are place" to --are placed-- .

Page 23, line 12, change "sheild" to --shield-- .

**In the Claims:**

**Cancel claims 1-24.**

**Add new claims 25, 26 and 27.**

1           25. A method of making a read head protection circuit for discharging electric charges  
2 accumulated on a component of a read head, comprising the steps of:

3              forming a substrate;

4              forming a pair of magnetic shields on the substrate;

5              forming a sensor element between the magnetic shields with a fixed distance between the  
6 sensor element and each magnetic shield; and

7              for each magnetic shield, forming a corresponding parasitic shield positioned adjacent the  
8 magnetic shield nearer to the magnetic shield than the fixed distance between the magnetic shield  
9 and the sensor element.

1           26. The method of claim 25 including forming each parasitic shield with a region  
2 nearest the corresponding magnetic shield with the regions defining pointed spark gap inducing  
3 structures.

1           27. The method of claim 25 further including forming means to maintain each parasitic  
2 shield substantially at an electrical potential of the sensor element.

**In the Abstract**

Page 38, line 1, change the title from "TiC MR-HEAD MAGNETIC SHIELD DUMMY SHIELD SPARK GAP" to --METHOD OF MAKING A TiC MR-HEAD MAGNETIC SHIELD DUMMY SHIELD SPARK GAP-- .

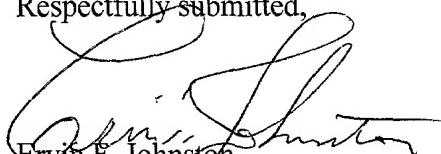
**REMARKS**

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Claims 1-24 have been cancelled and new claims 25-27 have been added so that claims 25-27 are now in the application.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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